

# Family Promise

of Genesee County

Volume 5

Issue 1

Summer  
2019

*Ending homelessness...one family at a time.*



A MESSAGE  
FROM THE DIRECTOR  
*Tiffani Ferrier*

## Greeting Friends!

Big things are happening here at Family Promise of Genesee County. Nicole and I had a wonderful time at National Conference. I tried to absorb as much helpful information as possible. I am so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful organization, with such a strong foundation that begins with all of you.

In house, we have been working on improving our advertising and marketing capabilities. We were graciously offered the services of Hathaway Cinematics. Zach, the owner, has created professional headshots, staff photos, and interviewing some of our coordinators and recording their processes. The goal of these videos (to be released soon) is to create awareness about family homelessness but educate the holistic approach that Family Promise provides. "What is Family Promise?" is a question we often hear we would like to showcase how a contribution to our program, helps children and their families with a hand up - rather than with a handout. In addition, Nicole has been working hard at creating a better online presence, one that keeps you all updated on what is happening not only here in Genesee County with homelessness, but across our Nation. We are facing a housing crisis epidemic that does not discriminate and is capable of effecting anyone.

In September, we will launch "Keys to Good Tenancy," and have teamed up with Shawn Rowden from ReMax Edge in Davison to help teach the curriculum. This program will be available to our current guests, graduates, and open to community members.

Did you know that for every \$1 that is donated it is matched three times over by community and in-kind resources? To that end, our Board of Directors is actively seeking committee members to help grow the whole organization. Committee members will help plan, organize, and affect overall function so that we can be both efficient and effective and help more families in our community.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please feel free to contact us via phone or email. We would be so happy to have your help.

## ***Welcome!***

We are so blessed to have you be a part of our organization! Though we try to say thank you often, we cannot say it enough. Each of you, no matter how big or small gives something from your heart that impacts the families we serve. Whether you spend the night, cook a meal, read a story, help with homework, play Candy Land, or coordinate and "rally the troops," we would not be here without you! John Heywood is right, "many hands do make light work!" Our heartfelt thanks to each of you who do so much to keep our network moving forward.

As you know, the work we do changes the lives of families in our community. Those efforts contribute to a national movement. Did you know Family Promise is leading the volunteer-driven nonprofit providing services to homeless families?

Recently, Family Promise released the [2018 Program Services Report](#) which, detailed the collective impact Affiliates have had across our country. (*You can view this on our website*). It puts in perspective the work we do in preventing homelessness and stabilizing families at risk or who have experienced homelessness. *Family Promise is paving the way in providing a holistic solution to family homelessness.*

We have so many exciting things coming. A new event (hello golfers, we heard you!), a new grant that will help us prevent children from becoming homeless right here in our community, and two new life-skill series that will give our families even more stability as they rebuild their foundation.

If the timing was not right in the past, but you have wanted to give a gift, we will put it to good use. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Feel free to stop by the Day Center any time!

Again, thank you for all that you do!

Many Blessings,

Family Promise Board of Directors and Staff

# Graduates

We never honestly know what our families feel as they make the journey through our program. We didn't find out until she graduated how badly she and her family struggled in the program.

As a team, it was eye-opening. We struggled with questions like, what could we have done to them feel better? More welcome? At home? Supported? Loved? Did we not listen because we were rushing around our selves? How could we improve our processes? Our communication? Our kindness? What if it was our own family was in their situation?

The team consensus was we need to remember our families are going through the hardest day of their life, **every day**.

Sure we provide a roof over their head and take care of the rest of their needs, but every day they get shuttled around. Every day they are not in control of their journey; every day, they have someone telling them what to do or asking for a recap on what they did do—every day.

So if they are quiet when they arrive, maybe they got the tenth NO about a job or housing application. Perhaps they got in trouble with their boss because they were late again because the bus wasn't on time, or maybe their Case Manager said they need to complete tasks on their to-do list to stay in the program.

Thank you for all the haven, hope, and prayer you share **every day**! Though her words may sound harsh, the courage it took for Amanda to write these heartfelt sentiments mean the world to us!

**SHELTER**

**HOSPITALITY**  
200,000 volunteers create a temporary home for the families we serve.

**CASE MANAGEMENT**  
Our 200+ Affiliates provide comprehensive guidance and resources.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
6,000 congregations & organizations serve families at 1/3 traditional shelter cost.

## Family Promise of Genesee County

### Staff

Tiffani Ferrier,  
*Executive Director*

Nicole Breslin,  
*Development Director*

Crawley Anthony,  
*Maintenance & Transportation*

Danielle Augustine,  
*Case Manager*

Valencia Pullom, BSW  
*Case & Intern Manager*

Bo Slomkowski,  
*Family Advocate*

### Board of Directors

Jim Distelrath—*President*

Anne Figueroa—*Vice President*

Open—*Treasurer*

Sonja Markwart—*Secretary*

Karen Vobach—*Immediate Past President*

Stacy Darmafall

Carol Dowsett

Pam Diment-Flores

Dave Rayner

Diana Snider

Phil Stadler

## Oh Happy Day!

Monday, April 15, 2019 6:47 AM

*In the beginning I hated to be here. I hated meeting all the new faces, voices, looks, stares, and the questions! I hated feeling so helpless to my family. I hated that my family had to endure and absorb it all. It has been very trying, it has been one of the most difficult things/situations I've ever been a part of. It has even felt degrading to me. Some of the people we've met weren't kind at all. They have tried to pretend they were sincere but I see the look in their eyes. I could tell it was all phony. But I smile anyhow, with great happiness. My family and I have received what God sent us here for. That's all that matters. God has worked out all the kinks and I'm very appreciative for Family Promise and for the very genuine beautiful hearted people (Angels) that we've had the pleasure to meet. God perfectly molded their hearts, hands, minds, and gave them unconditional love to truly love a stranger as they would their own. This is what makes me so happy. And I feel no ill will to the unkind ones because whether they know or not they have been a true blessing also. Every bit of this experience was meant for us. It has been a great learning experience for my family. I've smiled when I wanted to cry, I've comforted when I needed comfort. I've prayed and prayed and prayed and prayed more. I've been in constant motion, doing, going, calling, up early, down late, thinking, overthinking, starting, stopping, starting all over again. WHEEW!!*

*It's amazing how God knows exactly what one needs, how to prepare one, the direction that one needs and will take. Marvelous how God leads our footsteps and guides us to and through the most pleasant happy times as well as our life struggles. God has brought me and my family to Family Promise for so many reasons.*

*But ultimately and (I KNOW NOW)*

*Keeping a promise can be really difficult for us humans. But not for God, OH NO! Even if God has to work through people. His promise shall be fulfilled.*

*God loves us unconditionally, provides every one of our needs, keeps us safe, warm, fed, clothed, sheltered, and together as a family. This is what God has done for me and my family. I'm sure God placed Family Promise here to do his works. Everyone that God has placed in a position with Family Promise is carrying out a gift/job given by God. Whether they know it or not, they are blessed to be a part of something this great. And something this great is only God's doing.*

*I smile with great joy, my heart is so open. I'm just beyond myself. I know what true love is. The people of Family Promise didn't know me and my family, but through God's calling they have gotten to know us. And we now know so many people who truly do care, who truly enjoy making themselves available to the needs of others.*

*To other families that experience Family Promise I'd like to say be blessed with courage, patience, understanding, strength, compassion, motivation, and happiness.*

*I mean this from my whole heart. You and your families have BIG MOVES to make. Keep striving, keep praying, keep getting up when you are knocked down, when you are tired God will strengthen you. Keep your eyes on your prize, let God lead and guide your thoughts, words, and footsteps. You will get there! I BELIEVE IN YOU!!!*

Amanda

# Prevention



## FPGC Bridge Apart

Our Board of directors is a passionate group! After extensive thought, discussion, (and prayer), in the next direction Family

Promise would take, we are excited to announce a new program that will enhance how we help families in our community.

Our Bridge Apart program provides funding, up to \$1,000, available to families who meet specific criteria.

These funds can cover expenses like rental deposit, first-month rent, vehicle expenses, etc. Paying these expenses make it possible for families to move into permanent housing within 45 days, which is substantially faster than our traditional model, which can vary between 60-90 days.

Often the biggest barrier for our guests to maintain both employment and sustainable housing is a reliable vehicle. This program will allow us to help those families graduate faster and get to rebuilding their lives.



### *More good news!*

Family Promise and the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) recently announced the launch of Keys to Good Tenancy, a responsive curriculum that provides families with the knowledge and skills to be good tenants.

The curriculum prepares new renters for tenancy by addressing a broad spectrum of elements, including budgeting, leases, home repairs, maintenance, neighbor relations, renters' rights, and more.

FPGC has teamed up with Shawn Rowden from ReMax Edge in Davison to help teach the curriculum. This program will be available to our current guest, graduates, and open to community members, beginning in September.

If you would like to participate in this program, we would love to have you!

Call us at 810.234.9444 or email us at [info@familypromiseofgc.org](mailto:info@familypromiseofgc.org) for more information.



## HELP US MOVE IN

The mission of Family Promise and Help Us Move In (HUMI) are very similar—they are working to raise awareness about the growing population of children experiencing homelessness and just like us—they are working on generating community support to create sustainable funds that help children and their families **maintain** stable housing.

We are pleased to announce that we are the latest recipient of this unique matching grant program. We have begun the work of reaching out to major local partner, and then together, we will challenge the community to match dollar for dollar funds that result in 4x the grant.

This will be our second step towards providing stabilization to those in need.



As part of their commitment to Affiliates, and families, Family Promise (national) teamed up with Capgemini, to create a workforce development video series with the goal of helping families be successful in today's job market.

This on-demand programming, will add another layer of skill development to add on to the services we already provide.

**Pathways to Workplace Success**, was created to empower families to secure not just jobs, but meaningful employment.

Capgemini created and fine-tuned these videos with the support and input of the Affiliate Council, the Guest Advisory Council, and the national Family Promise staff.

# SAVE THE DATE

SEPT



SAVE THE DATE

Copper Ridge Golf Course | 8475 E. Alherton Rd. | Davison | 9:00 am Shotgun Start

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CHARITY GOLF OUTING

register at <http://bit.ly/FPGCGolf>

Ending Homelessness...One Family at a Time.



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE